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MONDAY
MARCH 22, 1954

Pauline Potter came to see me this morning at the office and we went over some things connected with her marriage. She is a descendant both of Thomas Jefferson and of Francis Scott Key, of "Star Spangled Banner" fame.

John Hughes called me about my telegram of last night summarizing the French situation and said he was very pleased with it.

Also, I heard from Jim Conant who wants me to come up to Bonn tomorrow night, which I shall do.

After lunch I went to see the Venetian exhibition in the Tuileries. There was a comparatively small representation of paintings, amongst which was a magnificent Crinelli and an unusually fine Carpaccio.

André de Staercke telephoned to say the Brussels Conference scheduled for March 30, at which the Foreign Ministers were to consider an EPC draft would be postponed at the request of the French Government.

He has had a nice reply from Sir Winston to his letter about British contingents in the EDC. He wants me to attempt, through Aldrich, to stir Sir Winston up to making a great speech at the proper time on this subject.

Mac Godley from the Embassy discussed the Saar question with me this afternoon. It seems to be going from bad to worse. I gave him a paper on the subject, prepared by Tommy, which I will take up later today with Doug.

Mark Childs came in, feeling rather pessimistic about the attitude of the French toward EDC.

An article appeared in Le Monde tonight in which the French Government has explained, through a spokesman, the true history of the now famous calendar. It reported this was a working document in our mission, that it had been shown to a few Frenchmen as a matter of information, and it was obvious from its contents it was entirely unofficial. It had no connection with the line of

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alleged American pressure on the French Government or Parliament to ratify the EDC. The Communist press has been making everything it could of the schedule, terming it part of an American plot to interfere in French internal affairs. President Herriot, in his bitterness against the EDC, so far forgot himself as to make a somewhat similar attack. We have several such schedules, since they are necessary at all times, if for no other reason to show how the dates of U.S. and U.K. assurances would fit into a variety of time tables of French Parliamentary action.

Harold Callender has apparently mentioned this affair in a New York Times article of yesterday which I have not yet seen but which has been quoted here.

Tonight we went to a dinner given by the Hugheses for Clare Luce. Besides the Luces, they had the Gruenthers, Ismays, Dillons, André de Staercke, Marshal Juin and his wife, St. Just, Ambassador Rossi Longhi, the Guaronis, Pierre David-Weil, Margaret Biddle, and others. Incidentally, Pierre told me that his father's fine collections had been kept by his mother, who has arranged to satisfy inheritance taxes without disposing of any of them. She is a wonderful old lady.

De Staercke said he is in favor of the postponement of the Foreign Ministers meeting at Brussels, which he had reported to me earlier today, since nothing substantial could be expected to come out of the meeting.

De Staercke believes the Belgian elections of April 11 will result in making necessary a combination of parties and the formation of a coalition Cabinet in which Spaak will be Foreign Minister. He anticipates some difficulty from the Palace if this is done, but thinks it can be overcome. In that event, Spaak will probably become active early in May and, with his dynamic personality and deep convictions on European integration, would be most useful.

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Rossi Longhi talked to me gloomily about the scandal in Italy and its possible effect on Scelba remaining in office. Clare Luce is glum on the same subject.

Al Gruenther said he is ~~very~~ pleased with our telegram COLED 202. He reports the atmosphere in Washington as being extremely unfavorable to the French.

There was lots of political conversation and some mention, as always, of Senator McCarthy and the extraordinary recent development of Mr. Cohn's wounded love cries at being separated from Mr. Schine.

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